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FRANCE.

The following cablegram has been received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Nydegger:

Smallpox epidemic at Marseilles.

MARSEILLES, December 11, 1899.

NYDEGGER.

GERMANY.

Precautions against plague at Bremen—Destruction of rats.

BREMEN, November 24, 1899.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 17th ultimo, relative to the inadequate disinfecting chamber in the Lloyd Hall at this place, I take pleasure in informing you that the North German Lloyd Company has decided, as a temporary measure, to supply the chamber with the air-exhausting appliance recommended by you.

They intend to place an entirely new disinfecting chamber, supplied with all modern improvements, in their new hall, which will be completed within two years.

In this connection I inclose for your information a translation of a circular which has been issued by direction of the medical commission of the Bremen senate, calling attention to the danger from rats as disseminators of bubonic plague.

Respectfully,

GEORGE H. MURPHY,
Vice-Consul.

[Inclosure.]

BREMEN WAREHOUSE COMPANY,
Bremen, November 14, 1899.

To all lessees:

1. By direction of the medical commission of the senate we have to inform you that, in view of the recent spreading of the bubonic plague (pest), it is important to destroy as far as possible the rats in the warehouses of the free port.

Suitable rat traps will be supplied by us upon application to such lessees as may be in need of them.

2. As it is known that rats are easily affected by the plague and aid the spread of the disease, in combating the danger of the introduction of plague it is of great importance that the presence of sick rats be ascertained as speedily as possible. Experience proves that such rats almost always leave their holes and die in exposed places.

We beg you, therefore, to call the attention of your employees to this matter, and to instruct them that rats found dead or dying in the open, unless other causes of death are apparent, must be delivered to the Bacteriological Institute, as provided in the accompanying precautionary regulations.

BREMEN WAREHOUSE COMPANY.
HOERNECKE, *President.*

INSTRUCTION AS TO THE DISPOSITION TO BE MADE OF RATS FOUND DEAD IN EXPOSED PLACES.

1. *Reason for delivery of dead rats to the Bacteriological Institute.*—As is known, rats are very susceptible to the plague and transmit the contagion to each other by touching and gnawing the dead rats. From the excrement and urine of rats infected with plague the contagion can also be extended to human beings.

It is, therefore, necessary to give special attention to any increase in the number of deaths among the rats.

Rats infected with plague abandon their usual habits in most cases so far as to leave their holes and die in the open.

If a rat be found dead or dying in an exposed place, unless other causes of death are apparent, the case must be regarded as suspicious and a careful investigation will be necessary.

2. *Procedure*.—Without touching it with the finger, the dead rat must, with the aid of tongs or a small shovel, be placed in a glass box provided for the purpose by the Bacteriological Institute.

The glass box should first be taken out of the exterior box in which it is to be transmitted. The glass box must then, after being carefully closed with a glass cover and carefully cleaned with water (or where practicable with a carbolic solution), be wrapped in blotting paper and laid in the exterior box. The latter should be marked with a card, giving date, place where the rat was found, and name of the finder. It should then be closed with tacks which can be easily removed.

If sent by post the tacks should be covered with sealing wax. The box should be further secured with cord in both directions and should be marked—

“HANDLE WITH CARE.

To be delivered by special messenger.”

The boxes referred to can be obtained at the medical department in the office of the free port and at the following police stations and other places.

GIBRALTAR.

Declaration of infection against Alexandria and Lisbon canceled.

GIBRALTAR, November 25, 1899.

The notification by the board of health, published on May 27 and on the 13th instant, respectively, declaring the ports of Alexandria and Lisbon to be infected ports, are hereby canceled by the board.

By order :

JOHN C. KING,
Secretary to the Board of Health.

ITALY.

Report from Naples.

NAPLES, ITALY, November 29, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended November 29, 1899, the following ships were inspected :

November 25, steamship *Karamania*, of the Anchor Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 366 steerage passengers and 79 pieces of large and 369 pieces of small baggage.

November 24, steamship *Auguste Victoria*, of the Hamburg American Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 26 cabin and 582 steerage passengers and 187 pieces of large and 639 pieces of small baggage.

Respectfully,

ENRICO BUONOCORE,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Plague in Kobe.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, November 15, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith my regular report of infectious diseases in Japan for period October 21 to November 10, inclusive.

It will be observed that, despite the onset of cooler weather, dysentery